

WRITING WORKSHEETS

Must-Know **Greek** Idioms

καβαλάω το καλάμι
kavaláō to kalámi

καβ'



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1. **καβαλάω το καλάμι**

kavaláō to kalámi

Literal Translation: ride the reed

Meaning: get on one's high horse

2. **του παίρνω τον αέρα**

tu pérno ton aéra

Literal Translation: take his air

Meaning: get the hang of it

3. **ξέφραγο αμπέλι**

xéfrago ambéli

Literal Translation: unfenced vineyard

Meaning: about a place or situation where there is no control and everyone does or acts as they please

4. **βγαίνω ασπροπρόσωπος**

vyéno asproprósopos

Literal Translation: come out whitefaced / make someone come out whitefaced

Meaning: come out smelling like a rose

5. **κάθομαι στ' αυγά μου**

káthome st' avgá mu

Literal Translation: sit on my eggs

Meaning: stay put or not take any action in a critical situation in order to stay under the radar

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6. άρχισαν τα όργανα

árhisan ta órgana

Literal Translation: the instruments began

Meaning: things are starting to get intense

7. άσπρο πάτο

áspro páto

Literal Translation: white bottom

Meaning: bottoms up

8. το μήλο κάτω απ' τη μηλιά θα πέσει

to mílo káto ap' ti miliá tha pési

Literal Translation: the apple will fall below the apple tree

Meaning: like father, like son

9. δε μου καίγεται καρφί

de mu kéyete karfí

Literal Translation: not (even) a nail is being burned for me

Meaning: not care at all

10. τρώω κουτόχορτο

tróo kutóhorto

Literal Translation: eat dumbgrass

Meaning: be stupid

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11. Διαβόλου κάλτσα

diavólu káltsa

Literal Translation: devil's sock

Meaning: someone extremely smart and ingenious

12. Δουλεύω ρολόι

dulévo rolói

Literal Translation: work (like a) clock

Meaning: in running order

13. Σιγά τον πολυέλαιο!

Sigá ton poliéleo!

Literal Translation: Softly (with) the chandelier!

Meaning: Big deal! (for an unimportant situation)

14. Άκου να δεις

áku na dis

Literal Translation: listen to see

Meaning: listen (when making a point)

15. Κατά φωνή κι ο γάιδαρος

katá foní ki o gáidaros

Literal Translation: by voice and the donkey

Meaning: speak of the devil

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16. μία σου και μία μου

mía su ke mía mu

Literal Translation: one yours and one mine

Meaning: tit for tat

17. μου βγάζει το λάδι

mu vgázi to ládi

Literal Translation: he drains the oil out of me

Meaning: be bothered and troubled by someone

18. φως φανάρι

fos fanári

Literal Translation: light lantern

Meaning: very obvious

19. είσαι τούβλο

íse túvlo

Literal Translation: you are (a) brick

Meaning: you are stupid

20. τα κάνω πλακάκια

ta káno plakákia

Literal Translation: do them tiles

Meaning: be in cahoots

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